
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ADDRESS THE BUDGET SHORTFALL.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 **PART I**

2 SECTION 1. This part is recommended by the governor for
3 immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of
4 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

5 SECTION 2. A critical funding emergency exists. The
6 general assistance program is a block grant program. The
7 maximum allowance a general assistance recipient may receive is
8 determined by dividing the amount of the appropriation by the
9 number of general assistance recipients. The general assistance
10 program will expend all appropriated funds before the end of the
11 current fiscal year and the department will be unable to
12 maintain the current maximum general assistance payment benefit.
13 The current assistance grant for disabled individuals is barely
14 enough to cover living expenses for individuals on a fixed
15 income who have no other viable means of support. Stopping the
16 grant payment or reducing the amount of the grant payment for
17 these individuals poses a real threat to these individuals'

1 health and safety. To prevent the reduction of general
2 assistance payments in the fourth quarter of fiscal year
3 2008-2009, additional funds are urgently needed.

4 The purpose of this part is to appropriate additional
5 general funds to address expenses related to general assistance
6 payments from the department of human services.

7 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,
8 there is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State
9 of Hawaii, the sum of \$1 or so much thereof as may be necessary
10 for the months of April, May, and June of 2009 for the purpose
11 of meeting the general fund shortfall to be used for general
12 assistance payments.

13 SECTION 4. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
14 department of human services for the purposes of this part.

15 **PART II**

16 SECTION 5. If any provision of this Act, or the
17 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held
18 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
19 applications of the Act, which can be given effect without the
20 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
21 of this Act are severable.

22 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2077.

Report Title:

Emergency Appropriation; Budget Shortfall; General Assistance

Description:

Emergency appropriation to address the budget shortfall for general assistance payments in April, May, and June of 2009.
(SD2)